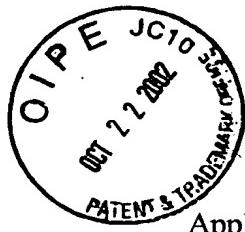


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1615

TECH CENTER 1000/2000
Patent No. MCP-0271



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Bunick & Luber

Serial No. : 09/752,601

Art Unit : 1615

Filed : 12/29/00

Examiner : J. Spear

Title : Soft Tabled Prepared by Post Compression Heating

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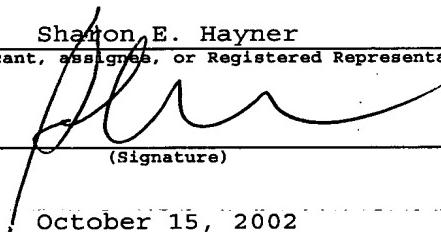
October 15, 2002

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Sharon E. Hayner

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

October 15, 2002

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action of July 16, 2002. Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

This application contains claims 1-23. Claims 1-13, 19 and 20 have been allowed.

Claims 14-18 and 21-23, however, have been rejected as follows.

Claims 14-18 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Danielson. These claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Puglia. The Examiner cites Puglia at column 4, lines 25-48, column 5, lines 5-31, column 7, lines 3-40, example 1, column 8, lines 55-68. The Examiner argues these references disclose tablets comprising ingredients falling within claim 14.

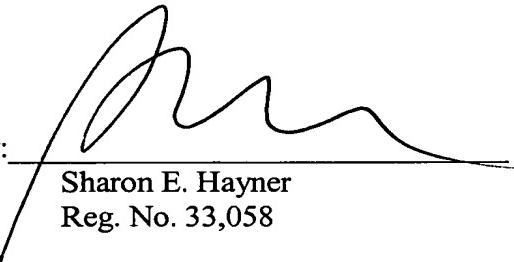
Applicants disagree. As previously stated, Claim 14 requires the presence of a water-swellable excipient that is at least partially hydrated. Although the Danielson and Puglia

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patents disclose the use of water-swellable excipients, i.e., microcrystalline cellulose, they do not disclose the use of water swellable excipients that are at least partially hydrated.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-23.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Dated: October 15, 2002